British Packet

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

N°. 715.] BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1840. [Vol. XIV.

BUENOS AYRES.

With this number concludes the quarter of the *British Packet.*

House of Representatives of the Province.

Buenos Ayres, April 24th, 1840.
31st year of the Liberty, 25th of the Independence,
And 11th of the Argentine Confederation

The House of Representatives,

To the Executive of the Province.

The Hon. House of Representatives has at its sitting of this date sanctioned the following—

Art. 1. The Hon. House of Representatives declares, that H. E. the Governor of the Province, Brigadier General Juan Manuel de Rosas, in the use he has made of the extraordinary powers with which he was invested by the law of 7th march 1835, has fulfilled the designs which the Province had in view in sanctioning them.

2. In virtue of what is stated in the preceding article, it accords a vote of thanks to the worthy Chief of the State, Illustrious Restorer of the Laws, Brigadier General Juan Manuel de Rosas, for the zeal, patriotism and wisdom with which he has fulfilled his mission, sustaining the sacred cause of the Argentine Confederation and American Liberty and Independence.

3. A Committee of the House, composed of three members to be named by the President shall transmit this vote verbally to the said Brigadier General Juan Manuel de Rosas, waiting upon him to that effect, on the day and hour H. E. may designate.

4. Let this be communicated, &c.

(The President of the Hon. House.)

MIGUEL GARCIA.

(The Secretary.)

Lucas G. Peña.

The Members appointed as the Committee to wait upon H. E. in pursuance of the above resolution were—Señores Agustin Pinedo, Baldomero Garcia and Pedro Vela.

H. E. the Governor under date Buenos Ayres 28th April 1840, returned the following reply.

The Citizen Brigadier General Juan Manuel de Rosas,

To the Hon. Representation of the Province.

The manifestation which the Representatives sanctioned on the 24th inst., has caused the undersigned the most lively and profound gratitude. All his painful labours are sufficiently recompensed since the worthy Representatives of the People, faithful organs of the public have deigned to accord this declaration, with a vote of thanks for the services he has had the honor to render to his country.

He will have the high satisfaction to receive the Honorable Committee on the 30th inst., at 3 in the afternoon.

God preserve you many years.

JUAN M. DE ROSAS.

Buenos Ayres, April 30th, 1840.
21st year of the Liberty, 25th of the Independence,
And 11th of the Argentine Confederation.

The Executive,

To the Hon. Legislature of the Province.

MESSRS. REPRESENTATIVES,

The government feels a lively satisfaction in complying with the duty which the law proscribes to it. You have enriched the Argentine history with an immortal page. From your elevated station you have energetically declared the import of the sacrifice even of fame in defence of liberty. Ardent in patriotism you have sanctioned resources which give a vigorous impulse to the sacred cause of the Confederation and of America. Having terminated these your ordinary sittings with indefatigable constancy, you are about to continue the extraordinary ones.

Messrs. Representatives,—The liberty of the country is gloriously triumphant. Yours is this boast: yours is this high honor. The government feels greatly rejoiced, and congratulates you on so much virtue, so much dignity, and so much glory. The Province and the Republic offer you their most fervent gratitude. America and all freemen accord you their honorable sympathies. You have exalted the glories of the Argentine Confederation. You have crowned the hopes of the friends of liberty all over the world.

God preserve you many years.

JUAN M. DE ROSAS.

Felipe Arana.

Manuel Insiarte.

We have only recently received a copy of the Message of the President of the United States to Congress. The following is that portion of it which relates to the affairs of Canada.

There is every reason to believe that disturbances like those which lately agitated the neighbouring British Provinces will not again prove the sources of border contentions, or interpose obstacles to the continuance of that good understanding which it is the mutual interest of Great Britain and the United States to preserve and maintain.

Within the Provinces themselves tranquillity is restored, and on our frontier that misguided sympathy in favor of what was presumed to be a general effort in behalf of popular rights, and which in some instances misled a few of our more inexperienced citizens, has subsided into a rational conviction strongly opposed to all intermeddling with the internal affairs of our neighbours. The people of the United States feel, as it is hoped they always will, a warm solicitude for the success of all who are sincerely endeavouring to improve the political condition of mankind. This generous feeling they cherish towards the most distant nations; and it was natural, therefore, that it should be awakened with more than common warmth in behalf of their immediate neighbours. But it does not belong to their character, as a community, to seek the gratification of those feelings in acts which violate their duty as citizens, endanger the peace of their country, and tend to bring upon it the stain of a violated faith towards foreign nations. If, zealous to confer benefits on others, they appear for a moment to lose sight of the permanent obligations imposed upon them as citizens, they are seldom long misled. From all the information I receive, confirmed to some extent by personal observations, I am satisfied no one can now hope to enter into such enterprises without encountering public indignation, in addition to the severest penalties of the law.

Recent information also leads me to hope that the emigrants from Her Majesty's Provinces, who have sought refuge within our boundaries, are disposed to become peaceable residents, and to abstain from all attempts to endanger the peace of the country which has afforded them an asylum. On a review of the occurrences on both sides of the line, it is satisfactory to reflect, that in almost every complaint against our country, the offence may be traced to emigrants from the Provinces who have sought refuge here. In the few instances in which they were aided by citizens of the United States, the acts of these misguided men were not on'y in direct contravention with the laws and well-known wishes of their own government, but met with the decided disapprobation of the people of the United States.

I regret to state the appearance of a different spirit among her Majesty's subjects in the Canadas. The sentiments of hostility to our people and institutions, which have been so frequently expressed there, and the disregard of our rights which have been manifested on some occasions, have, I am sorry to say, been applauded and encouraged by the people, and even by some of the subordinate local a thorities of the Provinces. The chief officers in Canada fortunately have not entertained the same feeling, and have probably prevented excesses that must have been fatal to the peace of the two countries.

I looked forward anxiously to a period when all the transactions which have g own out of this condition of our affairs, and which have been made the subjects of complaint and remonstrance by the two governments respectively, shall be fully examined, and the proper satisfaction given where it is due from either side.

THE WEATHER has at times been that of Summer this week. The thermometer which on Sunday and Monday was about 70, rose to 75 on Tuesday. The rains which have occurred since has caused it to decline to 60.

H. B. M's brig Camelion, exercised great guns on Tuesday and Wednesday last by firing at a mark. H. B. M's ship Actæon also practised ball firing on Wednesday morning. The Camelion exercised small arms on Tuesday afternoon.

H. B. M's ship Actæon, and brigs Camelion and Partridge, and the United States ship Marion, displayed the French flag at their fore yesterday, and each at mid-day fired a salute of 21 guns in honor of the 'Saint-day' of H. M. Louis Philippe.

Official Documents.

¡VIVA LA FEDERACION!

Treasury bills in circulation on 1st inst., 4,385,600 dollars.

A communication to the Executive from the President of the House of Representatives, dated 25th ult., stated that the ordinary sittings of the Legislature would close on the 30th ult., and requested the government to issue the correspondent orders.

The government replied to the above same day, stating that it not being possible for the Governor to attend in person to close the sittings, the Minister for Foreign Affairs would be his representative on the occasion, or in his absence the Minister of Finance.

SCOTCH NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Pursuant to public advertisement, the Annual General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Scotch National Schools of Buenos Ayres, was held in the Scotch Church on Monday evening, the 27th April.

The Rev. WILLIAM BROWN, in the Chair.

The Report of the Committee of Directors for the past year having been read, it was moved by Mr. W. S. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Davidson, that it be approved of, which was unanimously agreed to.

It was proposed by Mr. Dick and seconded by Mr. Fleming, and agreed to unanimously, that the following gentlemen form the Committee of Management for the ensuing year, viz:—Messrs. Thomas Galbraith, Thomas Bell, D. M'Queen, George Walker, John Smith, Robert M'Clymont, Robert Barbour and James Lawrie.

It was proposed by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Kidd, that the Report of the Committee of Management together with a list of the Subscribers be printed in the British Packet.—Agreed to unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. R. M'Clymont and seconded by Mr. W. S. Wilson, that a vote of thanks be given to the retiring Directors for their services during the past year. —Unanimously approved of.

Mr. Dick having then been called to the Chair, it was moved by Mr. Kidd and seconded by Mr. W. S. Wilson, and unanimously approved of, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. Brown, for his conduct in presiding over the proceedings of the evening.

REPORT.

The history of the Scotch National School during the past year contains little worthy of special notice. At the date of last Report, while many of the difficulties inseparable from the commencement of a new Institution had been surmounted, much was still required to complete the contemplated arrangements. The necessary buildings—the suitable books and apparatus—and above all a teacher qualified to conduct the details of the Seminary according to the Training System—all were wanting. The continuance of the French blockade has effectually prevented any advance during the past year towards the attainment of these objects, and the School therefore comes still as far short as ever of its proposed maturity. The increased expense of all building materials renders it even more impracticable now than before to proceed to the erection of School Rooms. A complete set of books and apparatus for a Training School arrived from Glasgow at Montevideo many months ago, but in consequence of the blockade it still remains there. And the same cause it is much to be feared must in some measure have tended to retard the arrival of a teacher. The unprecedented depreciation of the currency, and the many other evils connected with the present situation of things in this country, cannot but appear to those at home formidable obstacles to our undertaking. Our friends certainly in their correspondence with us on the subject, do not seem at all alarmed on this account, but on the contrary express every desire to provide us with a well qualified master, and represent no difficulty as standing in the way but the urgent demand from all parts of the Mother Country and the Colonies on the Normal Seminary for its students. By our last accounts one was promised to be speedily appointed for this destination, and we perceive by the public papers Buenos Ayres enumerated in the list of places for which teachers are preparing. We may therefore hope to be provided shortly, but though we still be obliged to wait a little longer the importance of introducing a system of education into this country possessing so many recommendations as that which we have selected and so highly appreciated wherever it has been established deserves all the sacrifices which it may demand from us.

But though the Institution thus continues in a comparatively incomplete and unformed state, it has not failed to justify the hopes entertained of it at the outset—it continues to enjoy the same, perhaps an increasing share of the public patronage, and the number of its pupils notwithstanding the difficulties of the times continues undiminished.

The state of the funds will be seen from the annexed account. A donation it was stated in last year's Report had been received with the express specification that it should be made the commencement of a Permanent Fund, and the example was strongly recommended to imitation. In consequence however of the exigencies of the times the Committee after mature deliberation considered it inexpedient to make an immediate appeal to the community in behalf of such an object, and resolved to wait till returning trade and prosperity furnished a more inviting opportunity—the delay in these circumstances will not it is hoped prejudice the cause. The price of the books and apparatus from Glasgow above referred to, has made a large demand on our annual subscriptions, but the deficiency thus created may be expected to be supplied by their sale when they come to hand.

The average attendance at the School throughout the year has been between 50 and 60—the fluctuation having been extremely small both in regard to numbers and individuals. This is one of the most pleasing features of the School, inasmuch as it is an indispensable condition to its right operation as a permanent Institution—it is only by a constant influence on the same individuals that it is of use in this character. It is the power which permanent institutions thus possess of marking out for themselves a specific field of operation, and the effect they are calculated ultimately to produce on that field that constitutes their true value and their chief recommendation.

It was the boast of last Committee that of the large number admitted to the School there had been but one application for gratuitous instruction—the present Committee are unfortunately denied this gratification, several having this year claimed the benefit of the Seventeenth Rule of the Constitution on the plea of the pressure of the times. The increase however of this class of scholars the Committee regard as wholly temporary, and as furnishing therefore no exceptions to the soundness of the doctrine of the unnecessariness and inexpediency of gratuitous education as set forth in the Report of the Provisional Committee and adopted as a fundamental principle of the Constitution. Every days' experience satisfies the Committee more and more of the inefficiency of gratuitous instruction—and that it is a far higher boon to the poor to enable them to buy education than to bestow it on them in charity.

It is one of the proudest glories of the present day to have opened the book of knowledge to all—to have swept away those obstructions which barred the mass from access to its page. The supporters of the Scotch National School desire to consecrate their humble efforts to the same noble end by bringing the best elementary education—by placing its very highest branches within reach of the humblest, and whatever success may ultimately crown their attempt they will never cease to feel it one of their purest satisfactions that they have made it.

The Scotch National Schools in account current with the Treasurer.

1839.	Dr.	Subscription Fund. Dols. Rs.
July.	To paid for printing..................	87 4
	To Carpenters' work in School-room...	26
Decr.	To cost of a box of books from England..................	1593
1840.		
March	To salary of Teacher for 12 months..	2460
		4166 4
	To Balance.....	524

1839.	Cr.	Dols. Rs.
April.	By Balance from last year...	1188 4
1840.		
April.	By amount of annual subscriptions...	2394
	By amount of subscriptions for 1838, collected this year....	60
	By Balance due the Treasurer.......	524
		4166 4

1840.	Dr.	Building Fund. Dols. Rs.
April.	To Balance,......................	6974 6
		6974 6

1839.	Cr.	Dols. Rs.
April.	By Balance from last year....	6191
1840.		
April.	By amount of donations received......	95
	By Interest.......	688 6
		6974 6
	By Balance..............	6974 6

1839.	Permanent Fund.	Dls. Rs.
April.	By Balance from last year............	500

E. & O. E.

Buenos Ayres, April 27, 1840.

GEORGE WALKER, Treasurer.

List of Subscribers to the Scotch National Schools.

J. H. Mandeville, Esq., H. B. M's Minister Plenipotentiary..................	100
Messrs. Atkinson, Robert............	12
Brown, Rev. W..........	100
Best, John and Brothers..........	50
Black, Daniel..........	10
Barbour, Robert..........	50
Buchanan, Robert..........	20
Bell, Thomas..........	25
Brown, James..........	25
Barclay, James..........	12
Bell, George..........	25
Black, James..........	30
Burns, ———..........	20
Bell, Henry..........	20
Cowes, James..........	20
Cummins, John..........	25
Clark, Turnbull..........	20
Craig, William..........	25
Craigdillie, David..........	25
Cameron, Angus..........	20
Cooper, William..........	15
Messrs. Cook, John..........	40
Dick, P. C..........	25
Dawson, George..........	20
Davidson, John..........	25
Dowdall, George..........	20
Duguid, Thomas..........	50
Flett, Magnus..........	50
Fleming, David..........	20
Galbraith, Thomas..........	25
Grant, Alexander..........	25
Gifford, Alexander..........	30
Gray, William..........	10
Grant, Senr., Alexander..........	20
Graham, James..........	20
Gowland, Thomas..........	20
Hughes, Frederick..........	20
Henderson, Benjamin..........	20
Hodson, Robert..........	20
Hardy, ———..........	20
Irvine, George..........	25
Kidd, Thomas..........	50
Ker, James..........	20
Lawrie, James..........	100
Laidlaw, W. and T..........	30
Livingston, Duncan..........	30
Liddle, Thomas..........	50
Laing, John..........	30
Malcolm, John..........	25
M'Crackan and Jamieson..........	50
M'Clymont, Robert..........	50
M'Queen, David..........	30
M'Phail, Alexander..........	30
M'Clymont, John..........	25
M'Cargo, John..........	25
M'Gaw, Alexander..........	20
Noble, Alexander..........	25
Nicholson, Green & Co..........	50
Newall, Nicholas..........	10
Orr, William..........	20
Portis, G. M..........	25
Pearson, John..........	10
Parlane, Macalister & Co..........	50
Rennie, Macfarlane & Co..........	50
Rodger, James..........	20
Rankin, William..........	20
Robson, Thomas..........	25
Robson, Junr., Hugh..........	10
Robson, Senr., Hugh..........	25
Stewart, P. C..........	20
Stewart, William..........	20
Smith, Archibald..........	20
Sheridan, Peter..........	50
Shannon, John..........	20
Smith, John..........	30
Thompson, William..........	20
Wilson, W. S..........	25
Winton, James..........	25
White, James and W..........	30
Walker, George..........	30
Wilson, William..........	20
Young, William..........	25

Committee of Directors for the present year.

Rev. William Brown, Chairman *ex-officio*.
Messrs. Thomas Galbraith.
Thomas Bell.
David M'Queen.
John Smith.
Robert Barbour.
James Lawrie.
George Walker, Treasurer.
Robert M'Clymont, Secretary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH PACKET.

SIR,

Should you deem the following lines worthy of a place in your valuable paper, you can publish them, they are taken from the *Manchester Times*, and are the production of a gentleman who at one time resided in that town.

A Constant Reader.

"Who comes from the bridal chamber,
It is Azrail the angel of death."

I come not unto thee, sweet child,
With the bright and laughing eye:
No, thou must quaff of sorrows' cup
Ere 'tis thy lot to die;
No care hath wrinkled o'er thy brow,
No thorns bestrew thy way,
But innocence and virtue tend,
Upon thy happy play.

I will not cull so sweet a flower,
Though in paradise to bloom:
No, thou shalt live to deck the earth
And smile upon the tomb;
Sport on, thou gay and lovely one,
Ere the cares of earth are known;
Go, pluck the flowrets of the spring,
In beauty like thy own.

I come not unto thee, gay youth,
Though the roses deck thy brow,
The dearest joys that paint the earth
Shall be thy pleasure now;
Thou must of Marah's waters drink,
Before thy course is trod,
And thy spirit be trice purified
Ere it ascends to God.

I come not unto thee, old age,
Though thy sand is nearly run;
Thy withered joys are passing fast,
And thy goal is almost won:
Yet must I pass thee, lonely one,
Though faint thy gasping breath,
I leave thee still to wander on,
Thou hast no charm for death.

But to thee, thou fairy form of light,
With smiles born all of love,
Sparkling in beauty's soft excess
'Neath the sunshine from above;
Thy altar pledge is drawing near,
Thy bridal hour is nigh:
But the changeless fiat hath gone forth,
And the beautiful must die.

To thee I come by his command,
Who stays the whirlwind's power;
Who watches e'en the sparrow's fall,
And guards the frailest flower:
The garments of thy earthly love,
Must to the grave be given,
And the virgin bride of earth shall be
The sainted bride of heaven.

Go, change the tarnished gaudes of earth,
For robes of spotless white,
And I will herald thee to scenes
Of glory and of light;
There endless life and fadeless love
Shall crown the bridal wreath,
And one eternal spring shall reign
Free from the blight of death.

Notice from the Police Office.

The public is informed that the decree of 25th August 1831, imposing a fine of 20 dollars upon all persons who gallop their horses in the streets, (except on public service,) within the distance of ten squares from the Plaza de la Victoria in all directions, is still in force; and in default payment the parties will be subjected to four days imprisonment.

VICTORICA.

Buenos Ayres, January 21, 1840.

The following letter has appeared in the London papers.

"Sir,—I reached England on Saturday last, and find that a great misrepresentation has been sent from the Mauritius to England, dear old England, relative to a decided intentional, and gross insult offered to her Majesty and the British nation on Saturday, the 7th of September, 1839, by the French ship of war Isere, in hoisting the flags of England contrary to usage and honour, and as I have played a prominent part in that affair, by resenting it, I beg to state the facts of the case, and also the orders from the Governor in her Majesty's name relative thereto. Rest fully assured truth is rarely to be found in the papers of the colony, or among the Creole inhabitants, who are a set of rebellious scoundrels, as was fully proved in the case of Mr. Jeremy, though never punished, owing to the extreme mildness of the then governor.

"On the date above alluded to I observed the French ship Isere hoist at her mizen peak the tri-coloured flags of France; under that, those of different nations; and below all, our glorious St. George's ensign and union jack, the latter touching the water. I must observe, she had two sets of halyards rove in a double block at her gaff-end. I felt this indignity offered to my beloved Sovereign and nation, as a Briton and old naval officer will ever do, and was determined to have my turn next morning, and at eight, a. m., converted the telegraph flag of Marryat's signals into a French jack, and stopped it to the bobstays, and our blessed and revered union jack on a flag-staff 12 feet above the bowsprit-cap, over it ship-shape; this was observed by the Frenchmen, and a boat came to the Greenlaw, desiring me to haul it down. I told the officer I would not do so, neither would I allow him nor any other Frenchman to touch it, but offered through Captain Boyer, the port captain, and a very old officer in her Majesty's service, to hoist it at my mast head, provided the French ship hoisted the St. George's ensign or union jack at their mast head, and would do nothing more without an order from the governor, and that in her Majesty's name. The Frenchmen then, to use a sailor's phrase, the next morning knocked up a row, talked of their honor and that of their nation. I must candidly confess I have not the best opinion of a Frenchman's honor, and when I hear them use that word, shrug their shoulders up, and grin like a monkey, think some roguery intended, and guard accordingly, for I firmly believe that honor is rarely to be found nearer a Frenchman's heart than the tip of his tongue, and England has generally found it so.

"I offered either of the captains personal satisfaction; this they declined, but talked of washing the insult from their flag in my blood. They did not then think that 150, or thereabouts, British seamen, were ready to aid in a moment, which, I am sure, would have settled the affair in half an hour, and England would have been triumphant. There was not the least occasion for the kind aid of the governor to protect the Greenlaw. There were blue jackets enough in the harbour to do that.

"The Frenchmen complained to the governor, which led to the correspondence herein handed you. I must observe, the Frenchmen declared the flags were hoisted through mistake, although it was as notorious as possible some of their officers had laid a bet they would do so a day or two before.

"The governor dictated an apology, which was written by some of his clerks; but the Frenchmen, in addition to that, insisted that I should go on board the two French ships (for there were two in the port) and there make an apology. I told his excellency no earthly power should make me do it, and before I would submit to such a degradation I would bare my breast to a file of soldiers and be shot to death, for I considered the apology more than sufficient, and had it not been demanded by the representative of my Most Gracious Sovereign, and that in her Majesty's name, I would have not made any. The governor then commenced a prosecution against me in the Admiralty Court; but when the Frenchmen found that nothing more was to be got from me, they consented to receive that apology, and hoist the union jack at the mast-head under a salute.—How well they redeemed their pledge is well known. This is probably French honor; and as soon as their repairs could be completed they were ordered away. Not a shot was fired at them. Oh! shame, shame! Are these repeated insults to be offered by the French to the British flag with impunity, and even in our own ports? If so, I for one have lived too long.

"I need not say no English man of war was in the harbour.

"If I had commanded a store-ship of her Majesty, which are always armed, though not to any extent, and witnessed this, I should have sent a boat on board the Isere to ask the cause for the disrespect so shown to the flag they have so often struck to and trembled at, and had they peristed in not respecting it, would have warped the ship I commanded alongside, and fired into her, till he had paid the flag that respect which is her just due, and which I feel she will ever command and enforce. God forbid I should ever see it otherwise. 'Church, Sovereign, and country for ever!'—these are my principles, and with them I will die. All we want in this country is unanimity, and not faction created by rebellious spirits. I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"THOMAS DRIVER, Master, R. N.

"Pemmell's-terrace, Peckham, Jan. 21."

The above letter is severely censured by several of the French journals. The *Debats* says:—

"Such hateful and extravagant violence surpasses everything that could have been expected even from this quarter. We will not do the English nation the injustice of rendering it responsible for such mad folly expressed in such terms; we merely regret for the honor of the press, that in a civilised country a journal has been found to open its columns to such savage invectives."

The *National* has the following on this subject:—

"This letter produces no new fact, but we give it as a new proof of the stupid and inveterate hatred which is felt against us by the tory conservatives of Great Britain. The English oligarchy will never forgive the France of 1789 and 1830, for having sown those seeds of emancipation, which have penetrated to the laborious population of England. The journals, as well as the men of this party, let no opportunity of insulting our soldiers and sailors escape; but the captain of the Greenlaw appears to us to have exceeded the national prejudices imposed by the existing relations of the two countries. His letter is of another epoch; it is equal in violence of language to that of the most furious English pamphleteers of 1795 and 1812. Captain Driver belongs probably to that generation. We will not do the wretched bragging of this boaster the honour of exposing its absurdity. It merits only pity or contempt."

The *Presse* abstains from publishing the letter, on the ground that France does not stand in need of the new matter for complaint against England which would be furnished by a publication so full of insult. The *Courrier Français* says:—

"Captain Driver has aggravated his misconduct by a letter, in which he declares that he does not believe in the honour of a Frenchman, and that the French officers refused to meet him in a duel. The honour of France, of French officers, and of French citizens, is, however, beyond the reach of insult from any tory madman. Mr. Driver pretends to have fought against us in that glorious struggle of the revolution, which has left other impressions than his upon the really brave men of all countries. We will tell him that men of really true courage know how to honor the enemy with whom they have contended. Nelson would not have raised a doubt upon the valour and honor of French naval officers. As to Mr. Driver's assertion that the officers of the Isére would not accept the challenge which he pretends to have offered, we do not fear to give him a formal contradiction. If M. Driver, instead of publishing his letter, had come over and stuck it up in a French port, he would not have had long to wait for an answer. It is very easy for a person to give himself a certificate of bravery when he has returned to port, and is no longer in presence of his adversary."

A young lady lately asked a gentleman the meaning of the word *Surrogate*. "It is, Miss," replied the gentleman, "a *gate* through which parties have to pass on their way to get married." "Then, I imagine," said the lady, "that it is a corruption of *sorrow gate*." "You are right, Miss," replied the gentleman, "as woman is an abbreviation of wo to man."

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

JUST IMPORTED, and to be had at moderate prices, first rate black, blue and other cloth, also black and red velvet, black and red East India satin, fancy velvet for waistcoats, &c., at Mr. Mayer's, Calle de Cangallo, No. 50. a23 2

NOTICE.

SHOULD there be offered for Sale any Silver Spoons, with the following mark, viz:—A tree springing out of a ducal coronet, with a serpent entwined; the parties giving information thereof to Mr. Beech, proprietor of the hotel No. 36 Calle de la Catedral, will be rewarded for their trouble.

MERCHANT VESSELS

In the Port of Buenos Ayres, on 30th of April, 1840.

NONE.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR.

FRENCH.	Corvette Alcmene, 26 guns, with Commodore's broad pendant.
	Corvette Triomphant, 24 guns, Captain Penaud.
BRITISH.	Ship Actæon, 26 guns, Captain Robert Russel.
	Brig Camelion, 10 guns, George Martin Hunter, Lieut. Commanding.
	Brig Partridge, 10 guns, William Morris, Lieut. Commanding.
AMERICAN.	Corvette Marion, 16 guns, Captain William J. Belt.

MARINE LIST.

Port of Buenos Ayres.

April 25.—Wind N. N. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 26.—Wind N. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 27.—Wind N. N. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 28.—Wind N. opposite coast visible.

Arrived, H. B. M's brig Partridge, 10 guns, William Morris, Lieut. Commanding, from Rio Janeiro 14th inst., arrived at Montevideo 26th, sailed thence 27th, with stores, &c., for H. B. M's ship Actæon and brig Camelion.

April 29.—Wind N. shifted to E. at 10 A. M., strong. Rain.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 30.—Wind E. hazy. Rain all last night and to day.

No arrivals or sailings.

May 1.—Wind S. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

Shipping Memoranda.

ARRIVED AT RIO JANEIRO.

6th ult., British frigate Crescent, 42 guns, Malachi Donellan, Lieut. Commanding, from Portsmouth 49 days. (She is to be employed as a depot for slaves.)

10th, French frigate Andromède, Captain Henri Villeneuve, from Valparaiso 34 days.

Passengers for France, Señor Riva Aguera and 5 children.

SAILED FROM MONTEVIDEO.

26th ult., H. B. M's packet Spider, for Rio Janeiro.

The United States corvette Lexington, was to sail from Valparaiso 10th March, and H.B.M's sloop of war Fly, from the same port 1st April, both for Rio Janeiro.

Operations of the French blockading vessels.

25th ult. A launch and an armed whale boat were cruising last night to the southward, and returned to the outer roads this morning. A launch came in from Colonia.

26th. The launch from Colonia sailed again during the last night, but in what quarter we know not. Two armed whale boats were cruising last night to the N., and went out this morning to meet another whale boat (one of their consorts) which had hove in sight from the eastward, and accompanied her to the outer roads.

27th. A French man of war cutter arrived from the N., and three of their whale boats from a night cruise in the same direction. Two of them sailed again during the day:—one to the eastward the other to the northward.

28th. The man of war cutter above noticed sailed to the eastward. The French armed cutter Tupac Amaru, a launch, and a whale boat came in from the N. The two latter from a night cruise.

29th. The Tupac Amaru sailed to the N. in company with a launch.

30th. The high wind and rain last night and this morning caused the boat cruisers to 'keep at home.' The weather moderated in the afternoon and the Alcmene and Triomphant sent up top gallant masts and yards, in preparation for to morrow's birth-day celebration.

1st inst. The Alcmene and Taiomphant were dressed out with flags in honor of the "Saint-day" of the King of the French, and fired salutes at sun-rise, mid-day and sun-set.

This day (2nd inst.) completes the 767th day of the blockade.

Queen Victoria, was married on the 10th of February last. The Archbishop of Canterbury performed the marriage ceremony, and the Queen promised to 'love, honor and obey,' Prince Albert:—with a reservation no doubt as to the obeying part of the question, which most ladies make to themselves at the time of being married.—"Promises and pie crust are made to be broken."

The Queen it is said evinced much self possession during the day of her nuptials. Albert however looked a little pale. He was dressed in full uniform as a Field Marshal in the British service. The marriage was celebrated with great magnificence. London was illuminated, the theatres opened gratis, and 'God save the Queen,' sung at each of them.

'The happy couple' retired to Windsor Castle to pass the "honey moon." The foreign papers (whence we have gleaned these extracts,) aver that from some neglect the nuptial couch was not prepared—or quoting their own words (for they have not been choice in this respect,) "the bed was not made." We must remain in suspense until the Packet arrives for an explanation of this affair, and what the Soothsayers augur from it.

The armament destined for China was about to sail from Portsmouth. It was amply provided with flat bottomed boats for landing troops, Congreve rockets, &c. Admiral Maitland, who was to have commanded it, died on the 30th December last, on board his flag ship the Wellesley, 72 guns, at sea in the vicinity of Bombay, aged 63.

By way of Rio Janeiro we learn that the British ships of war Volage and Hyacinth, had a "brush" in November last with 27 Chinese war junks, commanded by an Admiral of rank, viz:—wearing the feather of an Imperial turkey. The Chinamen were totally defeated and nearly all their junks destroyed, besides losing a great many men.

ARGENTINE THEATRE.

On 26th ult., was performed a new drama in three acts called *Los dos Valdomiros.* The plot—a tyrant usurps the throne of Hungary, imprisons the dowager queen for twenty years, endeavours to murder the infant heir to the throne, who is saved by a servant. A spurious heir is put forward, but in the end the real "Simon Pure" is restored to his rights, and the tyrant put to death.

The amusing farce of *La Viega y los dos Calaveras* followed.

The cazuela was crowded—the pit well attended and the boxes 'so, so.'

VICTORIA THEATRE.

On 26th ult., was performed *La Casa en venta. El Sueno* and *Los tunos castigados.*—A trio from the opera of *La Gaza Ladra* was sung (and well too) by Señores Vacani and Viera, and Señora Bigatti. Vacani depicted the amorous rascally Justice with his accustomed humour. Time seems to make but little impression on this admirable artist, and he manages his fine mellow voice with the skill which only a good musician can put forth. Nor must Viera be forgotten; he gave the solo part with much effect. This gentleman has a pleasing voice, and is an unassuming performer, and in our opinion has never been justly appreciated. His merits far exceed his defects. Señora Bigatti sung with taste. The trio was greatly applauded.

The audience was less numerous than at the Argentine Theatre. The cazuela was however full.

The orchestra of this Theatre has some good performers, of violinists and otherwise.

An issue of two real pieces of the new copper coinage took place last week. They are neatly executed.

Died.

On the 19th ult., at Montevideo, Samuel D. Lees, Esq., a native of Philadelphia, United States.

"An honest Man's the noblest work of God."

To this character the deceased was eminently entitled, but he added to rigid integrity, the most unaffected gentleness of manner and disposition; springing naturally, and to him unconsciously, from the amiable qualities of his heart; which, to a few in this city who knew him well endeared him in no ordinary degree. In lamenting his removal from among them they solace their feelings of regret in this just tribute to his memory.

The decease of Mr. William Morris, which we noticed in our last, was awfully sudden.—He was riding on his *Estancia*, accompanied by his eldest son, when he complained of a pain at the heart, and had scarcely uttered the complaint ere he fell lifeless from his horse. His remains were brought into town on Monday the 20th ult., and the carriage which contained them drove into the coach yard of the house in which his family resides, simultaneous with the news of the melancholy event reaching their ears.

The body was placed in a leaden coffin and conveyed to the British Protestant Cemetery on the 21st, attended by a great concourse of friends, both native and foreign, and deposited in the same grave with his three daughters Catherine, Sophia and Eliza.

The deceased Mr. William Morris, was for many years a resident in Buenos Ayres, where he carried on business as a "Coach-Maker," and was universally respected for his probity and kindness of heart. The affliction of his widow and family may be well imagined.—Their's is indeed

"A house of mourning."

On "St. Catherine's day" of 1839, (30th April,) the departed Catherine sent us some flowers as a remembrance of "her day." She was then in the bloom of health. On the same anniversary of 1840, we pen these sad details of her father's death and funeral.

Advertisement.

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Wool, common	13	a 16	do. per arr'ba
Do. picked	30	a 33	do. do.
Sheep skins per dozen	21	a 23	per 30lb.
Calf skins per dozen	35	a 37	
Deer skins per dozen	16	a 18	
Hair, long	85	a 95	do.per arr'ba
Do. mixed	45	a 48	do. do.
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Tallow, melted	18	a 19	do.per.arrb'a
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The highest price of Doubloons during the week 346 dollars. The lowest price 344 dollars.

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George Thomas, Responsible Editor.